Opening of three new museums in Jammu and Kashmir

1202. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open three new museums in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, where these would be located; and

(c) what is the annual estimated expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Paucity of funds hampering further excavations in Geesukonda (A.P.)

1203. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ancient civilisation found in Geesukonda (A.P.), excavations could not be carried out further due to paucity of funds in the Ministry;

(b) whether Government propose to sanction additional Rs. 1.5 lakh to acquire 5 acres of land and to declare it protected area for taking up further excavation; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The excavations at Geesukonda are being conducted by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh. As per information provided by the Government of Andhra Pradesh excavations have been stopped due to the objection raised by the land owner concerned.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.